GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6116
ANSWERED ON:11.04.2017
Report on Farmers Suicide
Chautala Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has sought the Government's clarifications/ reports regarding suicide of farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): Yes Madam. The National Human Rights Commission had sought Action Taken Report on a complaint relating to "Starvation in Bundelkhand district, Uttar Pradesh". It was stated in this complaint that the people of this district do not have any food articles to eat, they are badly starving and in a period of ten years more than 3500 farmers have committed suicide and that no government machinery is helping to remove their poverty. A reply has been sent to NHRC, which is as follows:

The Government of India has enacted National Food Security Act (NFSA) under which highly subsidized food grains are provided to the States/UTs. @ Rs.3 per kg of rice, Rs.2 per kg of wheat. As per the Act, coverage of Uttar Pradesh is 79.56% of the population in rural areas and 64.43% of population in urban areas which works out to be 1520.59 lakh individuals. The State Govt. of Uttar Pradesh has implemented NFSA in the entire State w.e.f. March, 2016 and has identified 88.82% beneficiaries prescribed under the Act which includes 1350.60 lakh individuals. Based on the identification of beneficiaries, Govt. of India is presently making a monthly allocation of 267394.030 tons of rice @ Rs.3 per kg and 446799.420 tons of wheat @ Rs.2 per kg to Uttar Pradesh under NFSA.

The Government of India also makes allocation of foodgrains to the States/UTs. for distribution among the beneficiaries under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS). TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries under TPDS and supervision over and monitoring and functioning of fair price shops etc. rests with the State/UT Governments.

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